



Saguaro National Park (East) Naturalist Program Schedule

Programs meet at the Rincon Mountain Visitor Center, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail. Program schedules are subject to change. Call the visitor center at (520) 733-5153 for updates or to make *RESERVATIONS*.
*Programs marked with an * are wheelchair accessible.*

December 28, 2009 – January 3, 2010

Monday, December 28

11:00 a.m. Desert Adaptations*

Join a park naturalist on this 30-minute garden walk to learn how plants have unique ways of adapting to their desert environment.

Tuesday, December 29

9:00 a.m. Desert Morning Hike

Join a park naturalist for this 3-hour, 4-mile exploration of Saguaro National Park. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring water and a trail snack.

10:00 a.m. Sonoran Lifestyles

Join a park naturalist on this two-hour, 1-mile walk to discover how plants and animals adapt to life in the desert. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring some water.

11:00 a.m. Natural History Table*

Join a park naturalist on the visitor center patio to have your questions answered about the natural history of the Sonoran Desert. This is an on-going, 30-minute program.

2:30 p.m. Reptiles and Amphibians of the Sonoran Desert*

Join park naturalist Bob Brandner for this 30-minute presentation to discover the fascinating world of reptiles and amphibians.

Wednesday, December 30

9:00 a.m. Desert Morning Hike

Join a park naturalist for this 3-hour, 4-mile exploration of Saguaro National Park. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring water and a trail snack.

10:00 a.m. Desert Discovery

Join park naturalists on this two-hour, 2-mile walk to discover the secrets of the Sonoran Desert. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

5:30 p.m. Holiday Cactus Caravan*

Explore the natural lore of the solstice holiday on a unique nighttime drive through the park's loop drive. Auto tours will be offered at 5:30, 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30 and 8:00 p.m., and will feature several stops along the 8-mile Cactus Forest Drive. Each tour lasts approximately 1½ hours. Cookies and cider will be offered at the visitor center all evening. As space is limited, advanced reservations are required, and can be made by calling 733-5153.

Thursday, December 31

10:00 a.m. Desert Discovery

Join park naturalists on this two-hour, 2-mile walk to discover the secrets of the Sonoran Desert. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

Friday, January 1

8:30 a.m. Desert Bird Walk

Join volunteer naturalists Vicki Powers and Ralph Terry for an easy two-hour walk in search of desert birds. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

11:00 a.m. Desert Adaptations

Join a park naturalist on this 30-minute garden walk to learn how plants have unique ways of adapting to their desert environment

Saturday, January 2

11:00 a.m. Desert Adaptations

Join a park naturalist on this 30-minute garden walk to learn how plants have unique ways of adapting to their desert environment

2:00 p.m. Gathering the Desert*

Join a park ranger in the Cactus Garden for an easy 30-minute stroll to learn how desert plants have been used for food, shelter, and clothing.

3:00 p.m. Desert Botany 101*


Go “back to school” with a naturalist in this 30-minute garden walk to review the basics of photosynthesis in a desert setting, then experiment with leaf adaptations in our “lab.”

Sunday, January 3

11:00 a.m. People and Places*

Join Park Ranger Arlo Ogden in the Visitor Center auditorium for this photo tour of the park’s historic past, focusing on the stories told by its historic structures.

2:00 p.m. Yesterday, Today,...and Saguaro?

Change is coming to the Cactus Forest and we can’t do anything about it! But don’t worry – change has been happening here for thousands of years. Come explore the life cycles of the saguaro cactus and the changing face of its Sonoran Desert home on this ¼ mile, 90-minute walk. *This program is wheelchair accessible.* 

3:00 p.m. Desert Adaptations*

Join a park naturalist on this 30-minute garden walk to learn how plants have unique ways of adapting to their desert environment .